

REMARKS

37 CFR 1.114(a) Rejections

Claims 19-27 are rejected under 37 CFR 1.114(a) as being untimely submitted in response to the prior Office Action. Given that the outstanding Office Action is a Final Office Action, and that this Amendment is accompanied by an RCE, the claims are now timely presented. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, the purpose of the claimed invention is not taught nor suggested by the cited references, nor is there any suggestion or teaching which would lead one skilled in the relevant art to combine the references in a manner which would meet the purpose of the claimed invention. Because the cited references, whether considered alone, or in combination with one another, do not teach nor suggest the purpose of the claimed invention, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention, as amended, patentably distinguishes over the prior art, including the art cited merely of record.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that its claims 19-27 are in condition for allowance at this time, patentably distinguishing over the cited prior art. Accordingly, reconsideration of the application and passage to allowance are respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully urged to call the undersigned attorney at (515) 288-2500 to discuss any remaining issues that may exist or arise.

Respectfully submitted,

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